

October 24, 1960

Dr. Detlev Bronk
President
National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Doctor Bronk:

Milislav Demerec informs me you are still contemplating a study of the sectional organization of the Academy. As you know, I have been concerned over the rather archaic separation of Botany and Zoology, and its effects on the recognition and vigour of cell-oriented biology - genetics, biophysics, molecular biology. I am sorry to note that this is seriously reflected in the character of nominations to the Academy, and it, and the nation it serves, can only suffer in consequence.

Dr. Demerec and I agree that we should postpone any proposals for the formation of a separate section on genetics until the indicated study is made. One of the regrettable arguments is how weak the remaining sections would be in the event. I realize how preoccupied you are with other weighty matters but hope you can give this your attention in timely season.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

cc: Dr. Riker
Dr. Demerec